



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

1-13-04  
RCE  
10/B

Applicants : Van Barlow, et al.  
Serial No. : 10/017,746  
Filed : December 7, 2001  
For : COATED STAPLE AND FASTENING TOOL FOR THE SAME  
Examiner : Lopez, Michelle  
Art Unit : 3721  
Docket No. : 510P004

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER H3703

AMENDMENT

In response to the Office Action dated September 3, 2003 (the period for response to which has been extended to January 3, 2004 by virtue of the accompanying fee), please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Remarks** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the claims** begin on page 5 of this paper.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents  
P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450  
on December 30, 2003 (Date)

Kevin S. Lemack  
Name of applicant, assignee, or Registered Representative

[Signature]  
Signature

December 30, 2003  
Date